

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 BUENOS 00628 302242Z

10

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /070 W

----- 113429

R 301315Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4322

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0628

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UK, AR, US

SUBJECT: MALVINAS ISSUE: POSSIBILITY OF US INTERMEDIARY ROLE

REF: A) LONDON 01376, B) BUENOS AIRES 0376

1. SUMMARY: WE DO NOT BELIEVE USG SHOULD INTERCEDE FOR THE BRITISH. GOA DECISION TO ASK AMBASSADOR ASHE TO LEAVE APPEARS TO HAVE RESULTED MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE FROM MALADROIT WAY IN WHICH BRITISH HANDLED SHACKLETON MISSION AND SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE. NONETHELESS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT GOA IS LIKELY TO TAKE EXTREME MEASURES AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. GOA HAS CONSISTENTLY URGED USG TO PLAY INTERMEDIARY ROLE IN SUGGESTING TO HMG THAT IT SHOULD ABIDE FULLY BY UN RESOLUTION AND NEGOTIATE SETTLEMENT OF MALVINAS DISPUTE. USG HAS JUST AS CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO BECOME INVOLVED EVEN TO THAT LIMITED EXTENT. THEREFORE, EMBASSY BA'S REACTION WOULD BE THAT WERE WE NOW TO INTERCEDE WITH GOA ON BEHALF OF BRITISH, WE MIGHT BE ACCUSED OF PARTIALITY. IF WE INTERCEDED FOR THE ONE, WHY COULD WE NOT FOR THE OTHER? MOREOVER, IT STRIKES US THAT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IT WOULD BE BETTER PART OF VALOR AT THIS TIME TO STAY OUT OF THE MATTER.

3. DESPITE THEIR UNHAPPINESS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE ARGENTINES

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 00628 302242Z

LIKELY TO TAKE DRASTIC ACTION AT THIS TIME SUCH AS SEIZING ISLANDS BY FORCE. THEY, AFTER ALL, HAVE ALMOST AS MANY PROBLEMS

AS THEY CAN HANDLE WITHOUT TAKING ON ROYAL NAVY. UNDERSECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS BELTRAMINO RAISED ISSUE WITH AMBASSADOR HILL AT DINNER PARTY JANUARY 28. HE EMPHASIZED THAT GOA VALUED ITS RELATIONS WITH UK AND DID NOT WANT TROUBLE OVER MALVINAS. GOA WAS NOT TRYING TO FORCE THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE NOW, HE SAID, AND HAD BRITISH REMAINED WITHIN PROCEDURES OF UN RESOLUTION, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO TROUBLE. SHACKLETON MISSION, HE WENT ON, HAD VIOLATED THAT PROCEDURE. BRITISH SEEMED TO BELIEVE THEY HAD EX-FONMIN ROBLEDOS TACIT APPROVAL AT UNGA LAST SEPTEMBER, BUT THIS WAS MISINTERPRETATION. NO ARGENTINE GO-AHEAD HAD BEEN GIVEN, THOUGH THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF TALKS ON THE SUBJECT (APPARENTLY REFERRING TO THE EXCHANGES ON POSSIBILITY OF ADDING ARGENTINE MEMBERS TO MISSION--EXCHANGES WHICH NEVER PRODUCED AGREEMENT). THUS, WHATEVER ITS INTENTIONS, MISSION WAS STRICTLY UNILATERAL INITIATIVE ON PART OF UK.

4. BELTRAMINO DID NOT ADD, BUT OTHER FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE, THAT ARGENTINE SENSIVITIES WERE RUBBED RAW BY BRITISH NOTE OF JANUARY 12 (SEE REF B). AS BELTRAMINO POINTED OUT, GOA IS NOT TRYING TO FORCE THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE NOW, BUT SOVEREIGNTY IS REPEAT IS LONG-RANGE OBJECTIVE AND GOA MUST PUBLICLY REASSERT IT FROM TIME TO TIME. EVEN SO, ARGENTINES HAD PERCEIVED THAT POLICY OF ENCOURAGING ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN ISLANDS AND MAINLAND WAS BEST AVAILABLE INSTRUMENT FOR TIME BEING AND THEY HAVE QUIETLY COOPERATED WITH IT. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THEY HAVE CONTINUED TO INSIST PUBLICLY AND CONSISTENTLY THAT THE UK SHOULD LIVE UP TO UN RESOLUTION AND ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARGENTINA ON ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER ISLANDS. SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE IS, IN FINAL ANALYSIS, ESSENCE OF THE MATTER TO THE ARGENTINES. EVEN SO, THEY ARE PREPARED TO BE PATIENT SO LONG AS DOORS ON THAT ISSUE ARE NOT SHUT. FOREIGN SECRETARY'S REFERENCE TO ISSUE AS "STERILE" IN JANUARY 12 NOTE WAS, AS INDICATED IN REF B, REGARDED BY ARGENTINES AS INTOLERABLE. EVEN BRITISH EMBOFFS AND NEWSMEN HERE HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED OPINION THAT MATTER WAS NOT BRILLIANTLY HANDLED BY HMG. GOA MIGHT HAVE ACCEPTED SHACKLETON MISSION, WITH APPROPRIATE PROTESTS AND FLAG WAVING, BUT SHARP REBUFF ON SOVEREIGNTY QUESTION SIMPLY WENT TOO FAR. AMBASSADOR ASHE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER, BUT HE HAS NEVER APPEARED TO TAKE MALVINAS ISSUE VERY SERIOUSLY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUENOS 00628 302242Z

5. SUCH INSENSITIVITY AT THIS POINT ESPECIALLY LIKELY TO DRAW BLOOD SINCE ARGENTINA IS IN POSITION OF MAN STRUNG TIGHT BY DOMESTIC PROBLEMS WHO THEREFORE LIKELY TO SNAP AT ANY PASSERBY WHO GIVES SLIGHTEST OFFENSE. INDEED, WE ARE SURPRISED THAT ARGENTINES HAVE NOT USED THE ISSUE MORE THAN THEY HAVE TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM MESS AT HOME. SOME TABLOIDS CONTINUE TO REPORT ISSUE IN SHRILL TERMS AND SOME ULTRANATIONALISTS CONTINUE TO DEMAND STRONGER MEASURES. GOA ITSELF, HOWEVER, AFTER ONCE ISSUING COMMUNIQUE ON DEPARTURE OF AMBASSADOR ASHE, HAS BEEN NOTABLY

QUIET.

HILL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL EXPULSIONS, INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUENOS00628
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760037-0768
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976016/aaaaaeqa.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LONDON 1376, 76 BUENOS AIRES 376
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALVINAS ISSUE: POSSIBILITY OF US INTERMEDIARY ROLE
TAGS: PFOR, UK, AR, US
To: STATE LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006